GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:575
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
FREE TRAVEL BY POLITICAL PARTY WORKERS
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that workers of various political parties freely travel in the trains without tickets to take part in the rallies being organized by the concerned parties;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that these workers forcibly occupy the seats and berths of the passengers travelling on valid tickets and the railway administration does not provide any help to the passengers;

(c) if so, the train-wise, date-wise and State-wise details thereof; and

(d) the action being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (d): Some cases of workers of political parties travelling without tickets in trains to participate in rallies organized by their respective political parties do come to notice. All out efforts are made by the ticket checking and security staff to curb entry of such unauthorized passengers in coaches. Persons travelling without tickets are charged as per rules. Regular bona fide passengers are provided necessary help in such situations including refund of full fares in cases when they do not want to travel. The train-wise, date-wise and state-wise details of such forcible occupation of seats/berths are not maintained. As a preventive measure, special trains are run to avoid such rally participants entering the regular trains. In addition, special trains are also run on demand by political parties on Full Tariff Rates to be paid in advance.